

LACCOD
LOS ANGELES
MAY 15, 2013

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PRESIDENT TROOST: HELLO, EVERYONE. I WOULD LIKE TO CALL THE MEETING FOR THE L.A. COUNTY COMMISSION FOR MAY 15, 2013, TO ORDER. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR MAKING A QUORUM.

MAY WE HAVE THE ROLL CALL? COULD WE HAVE THE ROLL CALL?

EMMA DEJESUS: THANK YOU, PRESIDENT TROOST.

REPRESENTING 1ST DISTRICT, COMMISSIONER TERAN IS ILL.

REPRESENTING 2ND DISTRICT, COMMISSIONER MUSTELIER-PARRISH.
COMMISSIONER NEAL.

COMMISSIONER TROOST.

REPRESENTING 3RD DISTRICT, COMMISSIONER WELLER, ALSO ILL.

REPRESENTING 3RD DISTRICT, COMMISSIONER WRIGHT IS ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER JAMES.

REPRESENTING 4TH DISTRICT, COMMISSIONER GURECKAS IS ALSO ILL.

REPRESENTING 4TH, COMMISSIONER WELT-NARRO.

4TH DISTRICT, COMMISSIONER RIOS IS ILL.

REPRESENTING 5TH DISTRICT, COMMISSIONER COLLEY IS ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER MILLER.

COMMISSIONER REITNOUER.

AND COMMISSIONER CHUN CHANG.

WE DO HAVE A QUORUM.

PRESIDENT TROOST: THANK YOU, EVERYBODY. I GUESS I AM UP FIRST WITH MY PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

ITEM #1 IS MINUTES APPROVAL FOR OUR APRIL MEETING.

WENDY WELT-NARRO: I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A MOTION.

PRESIDENT TROOST: ALL IN FAVOR? [AYES]

MOTION CARRIES.

>> I HAD A NECK SCENE FOR THE PAST THREE WEEKS. ONCE I WENT TO TWO DIFFERENT HOSPITALS AND DOCTORS LATER AND MY HUSBAND YELLED AT THEM, THEY GAVE AN MRI. I HAVE A HERNIATED DISK PUSHING AGAINST MY SPINAL CORD. IT'S VEERING TO THE LEFT SO THEY ARE HOPING BY HAVING ME WEAR THE NECK BRACE THAT I GUESS IT WILL GET BETTER – I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW THAT ALL WORKS, BUT HOPING IT WILL FIX AND I WON'T HAVE TO DO SURGERY. SO WE FIND OUT ON MAY 28 WHAT WILL HAPPEN.

COMMISSIONER NEAL: SPLINTING, HELPS. ALSO MAKES YOU MORE COMFORTABLE. I'VE BEEN THROUGH LOTS AND LOTS OF SPLINTING.

WENDY WELT-NARRO: I CAN'T STOP. I'VE GOT TO KEEP GOING. SO I'M HERE.

PRESIDENT TROOST: AS YOU KNOW, I'M HAVING TROUBLE READING MY OWN –

WOULD YOU –

COMMISSIONER REITNOUER: COMMISSIONER WELT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

FOR THE OFFICE OF TREASURER?

WENDY WELT-NARRO: YES.

COMMISSIONER REITNOUER: ARE THERE ANY OTHER NOMINATIONS? THEN I DECLARE THE NOMINATIONS CLOSED. WE HAVE A FULL SLATE. ALL THE INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO YOU PRIOR TO OUR MEETING.

PRESIDENT TROOST: OKAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

COMMISSIONER REITNOUER: EMMA AND I HAVE HAD GREAT CONVERSATIONS ON WHAT CONSTITUTES THE QUORUM, HOW WE GET IT, AND WE APPRECIATE VERY MUCH, EVERYBODY.

PRESIDENT TROOST: ITEM #5 -- #6 IS A REPORT FROM COMMISSIONER MILLER ON THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

THE MEETING GREW OUT OF DISCUSSION LAST MONTH WHEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DISABILITIES RIGHTS CALIFORNIA MADE A PRESENTATION AND RECOGNIZED THAT MANY OF THE SERVICES AND GUARANTEES THAT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE QUALITY OF LIFE, FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL TO THE LOCAL LEVEL. AS A MOTION, THE COMMISSION FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, WE SHOULD BE MORE IN TUNE WITH HOW WELL MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY ARE BEING TREATED BY ITS COUNTY DEPARTMENTS.

WE LOOKED AT THE MODEL WE HAVE HAD, I THINK IT'S AN EXCELLENT MODEL OF ACCESS COMING EACH MONTH AND GIVING A PRESENTATION AND GIVING US AN OPPORTUNITY VENTILATE ISSUES AND HELPING ACCESS SERVICES BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO ITS CONSTITUENTS.

I TOOK A STAB AT PUTTING TOGETHER A BASIC CHARTER FOR A PORTION OF THESE COMMISSION MEETINGS THAT WOULD SAY THAT ON AN ONGOING BASIS WE SHOULD RECEIVE REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS FROM EACH OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS THAT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT RESPONSIBILITY, EITHER BY STATUTE OR BUDGET, TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE COUNTY.

A REPORT YOU HAVE IN FRONT OF YOU, WE LISTED THE THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES WE WOULD BE TRYING TO ACHIEVE BY HAVING REPORTS FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE COUNTY.

I KNOW IT'S BEEN A LATE ARRIVAL. I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD READ THIS OR -- NO ONE HERE HAS HAD A CHANCE TO READ THESE, RIGHT?

EMMA DEJESUS: YOUR ACTUAL BREAKDOWN OF THE REPORT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN REVIEWED.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: THE AD HOC COMMITTEE CONSISTED OF PRESIDENT TROOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT NEAL. THE THREE OF US MET AND REVIEWED THIS DRAFT DOCUMENT. VICE-PRESIDENT NEAL HELPED SHAPE IT A LITTLE BIT TO INCLUDE LANGUAGE THAT SAYS THAT L.A. COUNTY RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY AND ENJOY THEIR FULL CIVIL RIGHTS, INCLUDING ACCESS TO ALL COUNTY SERVICES AND BASIC PROTECTION.

THREE PRINCIPLES WE SHOULD TRY TO ADDRESS, ENSURE THAT RESIDENTS WITHIN LOS ANGELES COUNTY LIVING WITH DISABILITIES ARE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY AND ENJOY ALL CIVIL RIGHTS.

2. ENSURE THAT ALL BRANCH AND DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT, MEET –

3. ENSURE THAT COINCIDENT RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES HAVE A VOICE AND INPUT INTO PROCESS OF SHAPING AND ADMINISTERING PUBLIC POLICIES THAT AFFECT THEIR DAILY RIGHTS, BE ENSURING THAT COUNTY DEPARTMENTS ARE MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE RIGHTS OF OUR CITIZENS.

THEN WE PROPOSE A METHODOLOGY... SUBSTANTIALLY IMPACT THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. AND IN THOSE PRESENTATIONS WOULD BE INCLUDED A DESCRIPTION AND MISSION/MANDATE OF THE DEPARTMENT, BE ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE DEPARTMENTS' PLANS AND PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS CIRCUMSTANCES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES RECEIVE.

DESCRIBE DEPARTMENTS PUBLIC INFORMATION, OUTREACH EFFORTS TO ENSURE CITIZENS ARE AWARE OF THE SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THEM THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT.

DISABILITY DEPARTMENT'S QUALITY ASSURANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY PROCEDURES. FINALLY SHARING IDEAS, INITIATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION THAT COULD IMPROVE THE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO SERVE RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.

THEN WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT A PORTION OF THESE COMMISSION MEETINGS WOULD BE DEVOTED TO THESE PRESENTATIONS, AND WE WOULD PROPOSE BUDGETING APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES FOR SUCH A PRESENTATION COVERING ALL THESE AREAS. AND THOSE PRESENTATIONS WOULD NOT BE INTERRUPTED BY CONTINUOUS QUESTIONS AND DIALOGUES AND TANGENTS BUT WOULD BE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THAT DEPARTMENT TO PRESENT MEANINGFUL INFORMATION THAT WOULD THEN BE FOLLOWED BY ABOUT A 15-MINUTE PERIOD OF QUESTIONS WE MIGHT HAVE AND POSSIBLY ALSO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE.

SO THAT WOULD BE THE BASIC RECOMMENDATION FOR A PORTION OF EACH OF OUR MEETINGS THAT ROUTINELY AND SYSTEMATICALLY OVER TIME WE WOULD CALL BEFORE THIS COMMISSION EACH OF THE DEPARTMENTS THAT PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ASSURING QUALITY OF LIFE TO OUR CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES.

SECOND HALF IS A NON-EXHAUSTIVE LISTING OF THE BASIC QUALITY-OF-LIFE FEATURES WE BELIEVE THE COUNTY HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD. THIS IS NON-EXHAUSTIVE, AND THERE ARE PROBABLY HEADINGS THAT SHOULD BE ADDED. AND THESE ARE NOT IN AN ORDER THAT WE ARE SUGGESTING THEY WOULD BE DONE. IT'S JUST AN IDEA OF THE KINDS OF DEPARTMENTS AND THE KINDS OF THINGS WE WOULD BE LOOKING AT IF WE SET UP A SCHEDULE AND HAD THESE PRESENTATIONS GOING ON.

WENDY WELT-NARRO: THANK YOU. I APPRECIATE YOUR REPORT. I READ IT. I APPRECIATE YOU TAKING THE TIME. I WAS IN AND OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, WHY I WAS NOT ABLE TO MAKE THE MEETING. VERY IMPRESSED,

PLEASANTLY SURPRISED. IT WAS VERY THOROUGH. MOST WOULD HAVE MADE IT REAL SIMPLE. THANK YOU. THE PUBLIC WILL APPRECIATE IT TOO.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: IT'S EASY TO WRITE IT. HARDER IF THE COMMISSION DECIDES TO ENACT IT. IT WILL BE A PERSISTENT EFFORT, DEPEND ON STAFF TO GET NOTICES OUT AND CHASE DEPARTMENTS DOWN TO MAKE SURE IT HAPPENS. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELPED RATTLE THE CAGE.

WENDY WELT-NARRO: HOW WE GET THIS ALL TO BE INSTILLED IN –

COMMISSIONER MILLER: I THINK WE CAN HAVE A DISCUSSION ABOUT THAT NOW, AND MAYBE THE SUBCOMMITTEE -- AD HOC COMMITTEE COULD MEET ONE MORE TIME AND TAKE YOUR FEEDBACK IN DISCUSSIONS AND DEVELOP SOMETHING.

I DO WANT TO TELL YOU THIS WILL NOT BE AN ONGOING COMMITTEE FOREVER. "AD HOC" MEANS COME INTO EXISTENCE TO TRY TO ADDRESS AN ISSUE. THEN FADES OUT.

WENDY WELT-NARRO: I'VE BEEN ON THE COMMISSION FOR 12 YEARS NOW. I WAS THE FIRST YOUTH COMMISSIONER BEFORE I BECAME SUPERVISOR DON KNABE'S – BACK IN THE DAY, WE USED TO HAVE LIKE GORDON ANTHONY WOULD COME – FORGOT HIS TITLE. WE HAD OTHER PEOPLE THAT WOULD COME AND THEY WERE ALWAYS HERE AND PLEASANTLY HERE AND ACTIVE AND ALWAYS GIVING REPORTS. IT WAS LIKE A SIMPLE EVERY-MONTHLY THING. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THAT. AND I AM – IT'S TOO BAD NOW WE HAVE TO DO THIS BIG OLD THING AND YOU HAVE TO DO YOUR REPORT. BACK IN THE DAY, LIKE I SAID, USED TO BE MORE SIMPLE, AND THEY WERE ALREADY HERE. THIS WHOLE ROOM WAS FILLED WITH 60 PEOPLE. I AM LETTING YOU KNOW THAT IT USED TO BE LIKE THAT. AND IT'S REALLY CHANGED THROUGHOUT, LIKE I SAID.

I THINK WHEN I WAS 19 – I WAS 19 WHEN I STARTED. I AM 33 NOW. SO BEEN HERE A WHILE. AND IT'S CHANGED. WHAT I LIKE NOW WE HAVE MORE PEOPLE. YES, WE ARE HAVING QUORUM ISSUES. BUT IT'S IMPROVED. A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED AWAY. I AM GLAD TO SEE WE WILL GET MORE PEOPLE TO BE MORE ACCOUNTABLE. AND I THINK IT WILL BE A GOOD THING. WHATEVER WE CAN DO TO ENACT A NEW THING, I AM ON BOARD AND GET IT GOING.

COMMISSIONER NEAL: I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I HAD EMMA GET YOU THIS GUIDE WHICH LISTS ALL THE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS AND DIVISIONS, ALL OF THEM.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: AT LEAST THE FONT IS A DECENT SIZE.

COMMISSIONER NEAL: I USE THIS BOOK, WITH THE COMPLAINTS PEOPLE WOULD MAKE, I WOULD FIND OUT WHO IN HERE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. ALSO GOING TO SUGGEST THAT MAYBE THIS IS SOMETHING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE COULD PURSUE FURTHER. THE PRESIDENT OR CHAIR RUN THE MEETING, MAKE SURE THIS IS SOME SORT OF A BLUEPRINT TO GO THROUGH WITH THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS.

WENDY WELT-NARRO: CAN I HAVE ONE TOO, PLEASE?

COMMISSIONER NEAL: HERE, CATCH. –

WENDY WELT-NARRO: YEAH, RIGHT. IF I DIDN'T HAVE THE NECK BRACE

—

DANIEL GARCIA: CAN I ALSO LOOK AT THAT?

COMMISSIONER MILLER: MIGHT BE PREMATURE, UNLESS YOU ARE SAYING THE WORK OF THIS AD HOC COMMITTEE IS OVER AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GOING TO TAKE IT OVER —

COMMISSIONER NEAL: NO. I AM SAYING WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS SOMETHING THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SHOULD TAKE THIS UP. THAT'S ALL I'M SAYING. BECAUSE I THINK IT'S A GOOD THING.

PRESIDENT TROOST: FROM WHAT I READ, IN THE OLD ORDINANCE, MOST OF THE DEPARTMENT HEADS WERE ACTUALLY APPOINTED BY THE BOARD TO BE IN EACH MONTH.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: HERE'S HOW I PROPOSE WE MOVE FORWARD. THIS HAS BEEN ONE DRAFT THAT'S BEEN LOOKED AT BY TWO OTHER COMMISSIONERS AND WAS NOT DISSEMINATED IN ENOUGH ADVANCE FOR THE COMMISSION TO LOOK AT IT, CONSIDER THEIR THOUGHT AND REFLECT ON IT AND PRESENT ANY CHANGES, ADDITIONS, WHATEVER. IT'S NOT BEEN WORKED THROUGH AND IT'S NOT READY — IT'S NOTHING YET. I WILL ASK THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION TAKE SOME TIME, MAKE SOME COMMENTS; THAT WE HAVE ANOTHER TELECONFERENCE SOMETIME MID-MONTH AND THAT AFTER ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT THIS AND MAKE THEIR SUGGESTIONS THAT WE WOULD PRODUCE A FURTHER-PROPOSED, AND THEN THIS COMMISSION WOULD COLLECTIVELY DECIDE WHETHER IT'S A DIRECTION THEY WANT TO GO OR NOT.

COMMISSIONER REITNOUER: IT'S JUST OUTSTANDING.

WENDY WELT-NARRO: CAN THE STAFF EMAIL IT TO US, UPDATED VERSION? THANK YOU.

COMMISSIONER REITNOUER: WHEN COMPLETED WILL GO TO THE SUPERVISORS FOR THEM TO SEE?

COMMISSIONER MILLER: AS I PROPOSE IT, THIS COMMISSION WOULD MAKE A DECISION THAT FROM SOME POINT FORWARD, THAT THE AGENDA, STRUCTURE OF THIS COMMISSION MEETING WOULD BE DEVOTED IN PART TO THESE ONGOING PRESENTATIONS. THAT WOULD BE AN ACT THE COMMISSION WOULD TAKE, TO SAY YES TO THAT. THEN THE ORDER THEY ARE DONE AND WORKING OUT THE — THE ORDER I DON'T THINK NEEDS TO BELONG TO A SUBCOMMITTEE. THAT WOULD GO TO HOWEVER THE COMMISSION WOULD WANT TO DO IT.

FIRST WE WOULD NEED TO DECIDE THAT FROM SOME POINT FORWARD WE WILL USE THE COMMISSION TO DRAW PEOPLE, ELEMENTS OF THE COUNTY IN TO (NOT CLEAR) THEY ARE MEETING THE NEEDS OF THEIR DISABLED CONSTITUENTS AND HOW WE WOULD FOLLOW UP IF WE ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE ANSWERS WE GET.

I WOULD PROPOSE TO COME BACK TO THIS COMMISSION NEXT MONTH AND, IF AT THAT POINT IT WAS READY FOR A MOTION TO ADOPT THIS

STRUCTURE, THAT COULD TAKE PLACE AT THE NEXT COMMISSION, CORRECT?

COMMISSIONER REITNOUER: WILL HAVE A QUORUM FOR SURE -

MARIA MUSTELIER-PARRISH: I THINK THE MOST IS WE ARE ADOPTING IT -- I'M JUST SAYING IT LOOKS WONDERFUL. WHAT I AM SAYING IS, I THINK THE QUESTION IS THE DELIVERY OF THIS, THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO COME BACK TO, COME BACK A PLAN. THE REPORT IS WONDERFUL. AND EVERYTHING WE NEED TO DO, YOU READ IT, WE READ IT, AND WE SEE IT. SO LIKE THE PLAN, BUT NOW HOW DO WE DO IT?

COMMISSIONER REITNOUER: IMPLEMENT.

COMMISSIONER MILLER: WE HAVE TO VOTE ON IT. GOT TO YOU TOO LATE TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A VOTE. SO WE HAVE A MONTH TO GET OVER THE INITIAL EXUBERANCE OF IT. IF WE WANT TO OWN, THINK ABOUT IT AS WELL, AND THEN ON THE AGENDA NEXT MONTH FOR A VOTE?

PRESIDENT TROOST: THANK YOU COMMISSIONER MILLER.

NOW WE ARE UP TO ITEM 8. YVONNE PRICE.

YVONNE PRICE: GOOD AFTERNOON, COMMISSIONERS. I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE A REPORT, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A COUPLE COMMENTS. FIRST OF ALL, THANK YOU FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION YOU PASSED ALONG. WE PASSED ALONG TO OUR ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND HOPEFULLY MEMBERS OF THAT COMMITTEE HAVE REFERRED POTENTIAL APPLICANTS TO THOSE SCHOLARSHIPS. PASSED ALSO ALONG TO METRO.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR ON KTYM ON MAY 1. THAT WAS MY PLEASURE TO COME. AND I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW THAT COMMISSIONER NEAL RUNS A REALLY NICE SHIP THERE. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO COME TALK. I FELT VERY COMFORTABLE BEING ABLE TO ADDRESS THE AUDIENCE.

THANK YOU, ALSO, COMMISSIONER NEAL AND COMMISSIONER PARRISH, THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDED ON GROUPS THAT SERVE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED PEOPLE.

AND ALSO YOU MENTIONED, REITERATED, COMMISSIONER MILLER, DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES. SO I HAVE A COUPLE (INAUDIBLE) IN THAT AREA.

AND PRESIDENT TROOST, YOU MENTIONED CASA COLINA. I WILL CHECK INTO THAT ONE TOO. JUST HEARD THAT ONE TODAY. MAKE SURE WE REACH OUT AS FAR AS WE CAN TO MAKE SURE PEOPLE HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT TRAVELING ON METRO.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I JUST WANT TO NOTE AGAIN THAT JUNE 19 WILL BE THE REGULAR AND NORMAL LATCHING OF THE RAIL SYSTEM, THE SUBWAY SYSTEM THAT REQUIRES YOU TO HAVE A TAP CARD TO TAP AND OPEN THE TURNSTILES. IF YOU ARE A DISABLED PERSON, WE HAVE INSTALLED THE G-TEL, OR GATE TELEPHONE. THEY WILL ALL BE INSTALLED AND OPERATIONAL BEFORE THAT JUNE 19TH DATE. LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING SURE THIS SYSTEM WORKS FOR EVERYONE.